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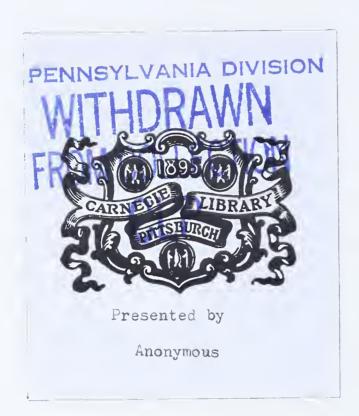






acts affecting local government, 1977





ACTS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1977

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1977

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INTRODUCTION

This publication contains brief summaries of legislation affecting local government, enacted during the l6lst regular session of the General Assembly. A total of 49 Acts, 2 Constitutional amendments and 2 proposed Constitutional amendments are reported as being of sufficient interest to Pennsylvania's communities.

ACTS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 1977, is divided into seven major topics. Within major topic areas, Acts are grouped by sub-topics representing more specific aspects of the major topic. The units of local government which each Act affects generally are included in its title. If an Act does not specifically affect any particular unit of local government but is of general interest, it has been assigned a heading which reflects its contents.

As a matter of convenience, the date of approval by the Governor and the effective date of each Act are included within the basic i information presented about each Act. The effective date listed is based upon the Department's interpretation of the Statutory Construction Act of 1972, P.L. 1339, No. 290, Title I, Part V, Chapter 17 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (1 Pa. C.S.A. 1701 to 1704).

The citations (P.S.) appearing after the synopses of Acts in this publication are to Purdon's Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated, published and copyrighted by the West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota. The citations are included in ACTS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT, 1977, primarily to save time for local government officials and others who have access to Purdon's Statutes and who wish to read the texts of particular Acts.

It should be noted that summaries are necessarily brief, and that these and the other information contained in this volume do not represent legal opinion.

Three indexes appear at the end of this volume: an index by Act number, an index by unit of local government and a comprehensive subject index.

Limited numbers of copies of Acts are available upon request from the Information Services Division, Bureau of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, P.O. Box 155, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120; telephone: 717-787-1062.



I. ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

a. Assessment Procedures

Act 1977-48 Counties - Second A and Third Class; Cities, Boroughs,
Towns, Townships, School Districts and Institution Districts
levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Amends Sections 8(c) and 9 of the Third Class County Assessment Board Law, 1931 P.L. 1379, No. 348, amended 1968 P.L. 258, No. 122, Section 9 also amended 1968 P.L. 339, No. 164 and repealed in part 1971 P.L. 118, No. 6.

Permits class actions relating to assessments.

72 P.S. 5349(c) and 5350

Act 1977-53 Counties - Second A and Third Class; Cities, Boroughs,
Towns, Townships, School Districts and Institution
Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Adds Section 8(g) to the Third Class County Assessment Board Law, 1931 P.L. 1379, No. 348.

Establishes notice requirements and appeal process when a county institutes a countywide revision of real property assessments; requires that all property owners be notified by mail of the value of the new assessment and the value of their old assessment; requires that each notice state the right of the property owner to appeal any new assessment value within 30 days of receipt of notice; requires the board to mail all notices by July 1 and authorizes the board at its discretion to begin hearing appeals 30 days following the mailing of the initial notices of reassessment; requires the board to notify each person who has filed an appeal and each taxing district with an interest in the appeal of the time and place of hearing on the appeal not later than the 20th day preceding the day designated for the appearance; provides for any person or taxing district failing to appear for the hearing to be presumed to have abandoned the appeal unless the date is rescheduled by the mutual consent of the property owner and the board; requires

the board to certify, by November 15, to the clerk or secretary of each political subdivision governed under the provisions of the act within the county, the value of real property, the value of occupations and the number of persons subject to personal taxes appearing in the assessment roll and taxable by the respective political subdivisions; requires that all appeals be heard and acted upon by the board by the last day of October.

72 P.S. 5349

Act 1977-70 Counties - Fourth to Eighth Class; Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships and School Districts levying taxes on assessments

in these counties

Amends Section 302 of the Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, 1943 P.L. 571, No. 254, amended 1952 P.L. 2094, No. 594.

Limits the duties of an appointed Board of Assessment Appeals to the hearing and determination of appeals from assessments made by the chief county assessor and the adoption of rules of procedure with respect to the determination of appeals.

72 P.S. 5453.302

Act 1977-90 Counties - First, Second, Second A and Third Class; Cities,
Boroughs, Townships, School Districts and Institution
Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Act 1977-91 Counties - Fourth to Eight Class; Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships and School Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Amend, respectively, Section 201(a) of the General County Assessment Law, 1933 P.L. 853, No. 155, amended 1973 P.L. 33, No. 17, and Section 201(a) of the Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, 1943 P.L. 571, No. 254, amended 1961 P.L. 1604, No. 678.

Provide for all office type construction of any kind and that portion of a steel, lead, aluminum or other melting and continuous casting structure which encloses or provides shelter for machinery, tools, appliances, equipment,

materials or products involved in the mill, mine, manufactory or industrial process to be considered as part of real property subject to taxation.

> Act 90: 72 P.S. 5020-201(a) Act 91: 72 P.S. 5453.201(a)

Act 1977-95 Counties - First, Second, Second A and Third Class; Cities, Boroughs, Townships, School Districts and Institution Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Amends Section 204(a)(7) of the General County Assessment Law, 1933 P.L. 853, No. 155, amended 1972 P.L. 868, No. 197.

Prohibits the exemption from taxation of any privilege, act or transaction conducted upon public property by persons or entities which would be taxable if conducted on nonpublic property regardless of the purpose for which the activity occurs, even if conducted as agent for or lessee of any public authority.

Approved: 12/16/77 Effective: 12/16/77 and applicable retroactively

to 1/1/77

72 P.S. 5020-204(a)(7)

Act 1977-103 Counties - Fourth to Eighth Class; Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships and School Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Act 1977-104 Counties - First, Second, Second A and Third Class; Cities, Boroughs, Townships, School Districts and Institution Districts levying taxes on assessments in these counties

Act 1977-105 Counties - Second Class; Cities, Boroughs, Townships and School Districts levying taxes on assessments in second class counties

Act 103 adds Section 204 to the Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, 1943 P.L. 571, No. 254; Act 104 adds Section 206 to the General County Assessment Law, 1933 P.L. 853, No. 155; Act 105 amends Section 13 of the Second Class County Assessment Law, 1939 P.L. 626, No. 294, amended 1970 P.L. 645, No. 218.

Require, when a department or agency of the Commonwealth or a municipality has ordered a sewer connection ban because of lack of adequate treatment facilities, that the real

estate affected by the order be reassessed for the duration of the order or for two years, whichever is shorter, based on the value of the best use of the land during the period of the reassessment; provide for the provisions to be applicable in cases where application for a building permit has been made and the applicant has been denied permission to proceed with the building or construction because of a sewer ban order; provide for the acts to apply to sewer connection bans in effect on and after the effective date of the acts and provide for the two-year period of reassessment to begin on the effective date for sewer connection bans imposed on or before the effective date.

> Act 103: 72 P.S. 5453.204 Act 104: 72 P.S. 5020.206 Act 105: 72 P.S. 5452.13

b. Tax Collection, Tax Sales

Act 1977-82

Cities - Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties - Third to Eighth Class, Institution Districts, School Districts - Second to Fourth Class and Vocational

Amends Sections 4(a) and 4(b) of and adds Section 4(h) to the Local Tax Collection Law, 1945 P.L. 1050, No. 394, amended 1947 P.L. 453, No. 205 and Section 4(b) amended 1947 P.L. 172, No. 75, 1953 P.L. 213, No. 24, and 1953 P.L. 411, No. 90.

Empowers the board of commissioners of any county, by resolution adopted no later than November 1 of the prior year, to authorize and require for the following year the joint bidding by the board of commissioners of bonds for all tax collectors for the county, for townships of the first class and for boroughs, towns, townships of the second class, school districts and vocational school districts within the county; authorizes cities of the third class to join in joint bidding with other municipalities for bonds of tax collectors; requires that counties, in joint bidding of bonds of tax collectors, comply with requirements of counties for advertising of bids for contracts or purchases, except provisions relating to minimum amount of expenditure.

72 P.S. 5511.4, (a), (b) and (h)

Act 1977-89 Counties - Second and Fourth Class

Amends the definition of "Taxing District" in Section 102 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, 1947 P.L. 1368, No. 542, amended 1975 P.L. 429, No. 121.

Extends the deadline for second class counties to come under the act to January 1, 1982; authorizes any county of the fourth class which has not previously held a tax sale under the act, by resolution adopted by the county commissioners, to be exempt from collecting its delinquent taxes under the act; provides for the exemption to be available only for a three-year period immediately following January 1, 1976, and requires that the county commissioners, by resolution, provide for the collection of delinquent taxes during the interim.

72 P.S. 5860.102

c. Tax Exemptions

Act 1977-42 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, School Districts

Reenacts and amends the Act authorizing local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemption for certain improvements to deteriorated dwellings, 1971 P.L. 206, No. 34.

Provides for the act to be known as the Improvement of Deteriorating Real Property or Areas Tax Exemption Act; prohibits the State Tax Equalization Board from considering exemptions granted under the act in arriving at the market value of school district real property so as to reduce the subsidy of any school district; authorizes taxing authorities which provide tax exemptions for improvements to deteriorated dwellings to choose a three-year exemption schedule with annual exemptions of 100 per cent of the eligible assessment; extends the act to authorize exemptions for improvements to deteriorating areas by the construction of new dwelling units; authorizes each local taxing authority (county, city, borough, incorporated town, township or school district), by ordinance or resolution, to exempt from all real property taxation for a period of three years the assessed valuation of any residential construction built in a deteriorating area; requires each interested municipal governing body (city, borough, incorporated town

or township), or two or more municipal governing bodies jointly, after holding at least one public hearing, to determine the boundaries of a deteriorating area or areas; establishes standards for the designation of deteriorating areas and requires that the standards set forth in the Urban Redevelopment Law for determination of blighted areas and in the Neighborhood Assistance Act for determination of impoverished areas be taken into account; requires the ordinance or resolution to describe each designated deteriorating area, the maximum assessment per dwelling unit which may be exempted and the schedule of taxes exempted; establishes a three-year exemption schedule with annual exemptions of 100 per cent of the eligible assessment; limits the exemption from taxes to the assessment valuation attributable to the cost of construction of the new dwelling unit not in excess of the uniform maximum cost per dwelling unit specified by the municipal governing body; requires a taxpayer to apply for an exemption on a form provided by the local taxing authority at the time he secures a building permit, or at the commencement of construction if no building permit is required; requires the assessment agency to assess the dwelling unit and the land separately and to notify the taxpayer and the local taxing authorities of the amount of the assessment eligible for exemption; prohibits termination of the exemption because of the sale or exchange of the property and prohibits consideration of the property during the exemption period as a factor in assessing the value of other properties in the same area; provides for any amendments to the ordinance providing for the tax exemptions to be applicable only to exemption requests initiated after adoption of the amendments.

72 P.S. 4711-101 et. seq.

Act 1977-54 Cities - Third Class

Adds Section 2531.1 to the Third Class City Code, 1951 P.L. 662, No. 164.

Authorizes city council, by ordinance or resolution, to exempt any person whose total annual income from all sources is less than \$3,200 from any per capita or resident's tax levied under the Code; specifically excludes real property taxes from the provision.

53 P.S. 37531.1

Act 1977-76

Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Institution Districts, School Districts

A new Act, known as the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act.

Authorizes each local taxing authority (county, city, borough, incorporated town, township, institution district or school district), by ordinance or resolution, to exempt from real property taxation the assessed valuation of improvements to deteriorated industrial, commercial or other business property; requires, prior to the adoption of the ordinance or resolution authorizing the granting of tax exemptions, that the boundaries of a deteriorated area or areas be determined by the municipal governing body (city, borough, incorporated town or township), or two or more municipal governing bodies jointly, after holding at least one public hearing; establishes criteria to be taken into account in the designation of deteriorated areas, including the criteria set forth in the Urban Redevelopment Law for determination of blighted areas and in the Neighborhood Assistance Act for determination of impoverished areas; requires the ordinance or resolution to describe each designated deteriorated area, the cost of improvements per unit to be exempted and the schedule of taxes exempted; limits the length of the schedule of taxes exempted to a maximum of ten years, requires the schedule to stipulate the portion of improvements to be exempted each year and limits the exemption to the additional assessment valuation attributable to the actual costs of improvements to deteriorated property or the maximum cost per unit established by a municipal governing body; prohibits termination of the exemption because of the sale or exchange of the property; requires a taxpayer to apply for an exemption on a form provided by the local taxing authority at the time he secures a building permit, or at the commencement of construction if no building permit is required; requires the assessment agency, after completion of the improvement, to assess separately the improvement and to notify the taxpayer and local taxing authorities of the amounts of the assessment eligible for exemption; provides for any amendments to the ordinance providing for the tax exemptions to be applicable only to exemption requests initiated after adoption of the amendments.

72 P.S. 4722 to 4727

Joint Resolution 1977-1 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Institution Districts

Amends Article VIII, Section 2(c) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Exempts permanently and totally disabled veterans from payment of real property taxes if the State Veterans' Commission determines that such persons are in need of the tax exemptions.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth: 7/28/77

Prior passage: 1976

Approved by statewide referendum: 11/8/77

d. Tax Levies

Act 1977-46

School Districts - First Class A

Amends the following sections of the Public School Code of 1949, P.L. 30, No. 14:

Section 401(a.1) (added);

Section 652, amended 1951 P.L. 436, No. 103;

Section 652.1(a)(1)(iv), added 1975, P.L. 511, No. 150.

Requires the school directors in all school districts of the first class A to meet and organize annually during the first week of December and requires that the school taxes for the following fiscal year in districts of the first class A be levied on or after the first Monday of December and before the end of the current fiscal year; provides an updated list of the real property taxing authority of school districts of the first class A.

24 P.S. 4-401(a.1), 6-652.1(a)(1)(iv)

Act 1977-58

Counties - Third to Eighth Class

Adds Section 1782.3 to the County Code, 1955 P.L. 323, No. 130.

Authorizes the county commissioners, prior to the time tax duplicates are sent by the county in any year, to amend the budget and to change the levy, tax rate and tax duplicate to conform with the amended budget when the county receives unanticipated revenues which may be expended during the

county's fiscal year enabling the commissioners to reduce the levy and tax rate; requires the commissioners, within 15 days after any amendment to the budget, levy and tax rate, to file a copy of the amended budget with the Department of Community Affairs.

16 P.S. 1782.3

Act 1977-94 Counties - Second Class

Adds Section 1970.2 to the Second Class County Code, 1953 P.L. 723, No. 230.

Authorizes the county commissioners in each county of the second class to impose an excise tax not to exceed one per cent on the consideration received by each operator of a hotel within the county from each transaction of renting a room to accommodate transients; requires that the tax be collected by the hotel operator from the patron of the room and paid over to the county; requires the treasurer of each county electing to impose the tax to deposit the revenues in a special fund established solely for purposes of a convention center or exhibition hall; authorizes expenditures from the fund for all purposes which a public authority determines to be necessary to the support, operation and maintenance of a convention center or exhibition hall including precompletion advertising and publicizing, promoting and attracting conventions and other functions, promoting the use of the premises by the public and operating, maintaining and equipping the premises; provides for the use of the proceeds of a hotel room rental tax to offset the entire operating deficit of any convention center or exhibition hall including shares of any city or public authority within the county within whose boundaries a convention center or exhibition hall is planned or constructed which shares with the county any obligation with respect to the convention center; provides for the termination of the provisions authorizing a hotel room rental tax on December 31, 1983; authorizes the use of revenues in excess of amounts needed to offset operating deficits to provide part or all of any annual payment by a county or political subdivision under any agreement with any public auditorium authority designated as the operating agency for a convention center in support of bonds issued by the authority or to effect necessary expansion or further capital improvements.

16 P.S. 4970.2

Amends the following sections of the Tax Reform Code of 1971, P.L. 6, No. 2:

Section 302, added 1971 P.L. 362, No. 93 and amended 1974 P.L. 179, No. 32;

Sections 351 and 359, added 1971 P.L. 362, No. 93;

Section 402, amended 1974 P.L. 179, No. 32;

Section 407(a);

Section 502, amended 1974 P.L. 179, No. 32;

Section 1202.1 (added).

Increases the rate of the state personal income tax from two per cent to two and two-tenths per cent, effective from January 1, 1978, until January 1, 1980; increases the rate of interest on unpaid taxes from one-half to three-fourths of one per cent per month; limits the rate of a tax on income levied by a first class city under the Sterling Act (1932 Sp. Sess. P.L. 45, No. 45) on nonresidents to four and fivesixteenths per cent for the tax year 1977 or for any tax year thereafter; provides for any city ordinance imposing a tax rate on residents or nonresidents in excess of four and five-sixteenths per cent to be deemed valid with respect to legal residents of the city, but to be suspended with respect to nonresidents to the extent that the tax rate exceeds four and five-sixteenths per cent; provides for the excess tax rate provisions to remain suspended until the city, by ordinance, imposes a rate of tax on income of both residents and nonresidents in excess of five and three-fourths per cent at which time the suspension would be removed and the rate deemed valid to the extent the tax rate imposed on income of nonresidents does not exceed seventy-five per cent of the tax rate imposed on the income of residents; provides for employers to withhold from employes' compensation the highest amount of tax imposed with provision for refunds of the excess tax withheld to qualified nonresident taxpayers within four months of the end of each calendar year; increases the rate of tax imposed on certain corporations for a three-year period; changes the period for settlement of corporate income taxes and changes the prepayment of tax provisions for such taxes.

Approved: 12/21/77

Effective: 12/21/77

(Personal income tax increase is applicable on 1/1/78; corporate income tax increases are applicable beginning with calendar year 1977 or fiscal year beginning in 1977.)

72 P.S. 7302, 7351, 7359, 7402, 7407(a), 7502 and 8202.1

II. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES

a. Financial Procedures

Act 1977-66

Cities - Second, Second A and Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Institution Districts, School Districts

Amends the following sections of the Local Government Unit Debt Act, 1972 P.L. 781, No. 185:

Section 509; Section 510; Section 512(a), amended 1973 P.L. 434, No. 153; Section 512(a.1) (added); Section 512(c) (added).

Further defines unfunded debt to provide for the inclusion of obligations which are either incurred or to be incurred for current expenses; authorizes school districts of the first class, by petition to the court of common pleas of the county where the local government unit is located, to request approval for the issuance of bonds or notes to fund the unfunded debt; requires the court, after hearing on notice to the local government unit and its taxpayers, to grant authority to fund all or part of the unfunded debt if the court finds that paying the debt by curtailing municipal or educational services will be dangerous to the public health, safety or education, that the funding debt does not exceed applicable debt limitations and that it is not feasible for school districts of the first class to levy additional taxes in the current fiscal year; requires that the approved funding debt be stated to mature in amounts and over a number of years, not exceeding ten, which the court determines will accomplish payment of the debt without endangering the rendering of municipal or educational services or requiring the levying of excessive taxes; provides for the funding of the unfunded debt to be charged against the nonelectoral debt limitations of the school district of the first class.

Approved: 11/2/77

Effective: 11/2/77 (Expires on 6/30/78; expiration shall not affect the validity of any obligation outstanding under the provisions of the amendment)

53 P.S. 6780-209, 6780-210 and 6780-212

Act 1977-73 Cities, Boroughs, Townships - First Class

Amends Section 10 of the Parking Authority Law, 1947 P.L. 458, No. 208, amended 1951 P.L. 291, No. 57.

Requires that deposits of moneys of the authority by the treasurer be made at the direction of the authority; authorizes, in addition to bank deposits, the deposit of moneys of the authority in bank and trust companies or under savings contracts in savings associations in one or more special accounts.

Approved: 11/23/77 Effective: 11/23/77

53 P.S. 350

b. Ordinances

Act 1977-74 Counties - Second Class and Second Class A

Amends Section 508 of the Second Class County Code, 1953 P.L. 723, No. 230, amended 1957 P.L. 669, No. 353.

Requires that proposed ordinances be published not more than 60 nor less than seven days prior to passage; authorizes public notice of any proposed ordinance to include either the full text of the ordinance or the title and a brief summary propared by the county solicitor setting forth all the provisions in reasonable detail and a reference to a place within the county where copies of the proposed ordinance may be examined; requires, in cases where the full text is not included, that a copy of the proposed ordinance be supplied to the same newspaper of general circulation at the time the public notice is published and that an attested copy of the proposed ordinance be filed in the county law library; requires, in the event substantial amendments are made in the proposed ordinance, upon enactment, that the county commissioners readvertise within ten days in one newspaper of general circulation in the county a brief summary setting forth all the provisions in reasonable detail together with a summary of the amendments; provides for ordinances to become effective when recorded in the ordinance book of the county.

16 P.S. 3508

Act 1977-78 Cities - Third Class

Amends Section 1014 of the Third Class City Code, 1951 P.L. 662, No. 164, amended 1971 P.L. 250, No. 61.

Removes the requirement that ordinances be published at least three times, each publication on a different day; requires that each proposed ordinance be published not more than sixty days nor less than seven days prior to passage in at least one and not more than two newspapers printed or circulated within the city; authorizes publication of any proposed ordinance to include either the full text or the title and a brief summary prepared by the city solicitor setting forth all the provisions in reasonable detail and a reference to a place within the city where copies of the proposed ordinance may be examined; requires, in cases where the full text is not included, that a copy of the proposed ordinance be supplied to the same newspaper of general circulation in the city at the time the public notice is published and that an attested copy of the proposed ordinance be filed in the county law library or other county office designated by the county commissioners; authorizes the county commissioners to impose a fee no greater than that necessary to cover the actual cost of storing the ordinances; requires, in the event substantial amendments are made in the proposed ordinance, before voting on enactment, that council readvertise within ten days in one newspaper of general circulation in the city a brief summary setting forth all the provisions in reasonable detail together with a summary of the amendments.

53 P.S. 36014

c. Purchasing

Act 1977-17 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Authorities, School Districts

Amends Section 2403(h) of the Administrative Code of 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175, amended 1974 P.L. 283, No. 85.

Authorizes the Department of General Services and other administrative departments to permit any private college or university to participate in purchase contracts entered into by the Commonwealth; authorizes any nonprofit fire company, nonprofit rescue company or nonprofit ambulance company to submit requests for the purchase of

materials, supplies and equipment to the political subdivision in which the company is located to be included in the political subdivision's participation in state purchase contracts; requires the company to agree to be bound by the terms and conditions prescribed by the political subdivision and to be responsible for payment directly to the vendor under each purchase contract.

71 P.S. 633(h)

Act 1977-72 Townships - First Class

Amends Section 703 of and adds Section 1804.1 to the First Class Township Code, 1949 P.L. 1955, No. 569, Section 703 amended 1973 P.L. 326, No. 106.

Removes the requirement that commissioners' salaries be paid as full compensation for the duties imposed under the Code; empowers the board of commissioners to permit any paid or volunteer fire company, rescue company or ambulance company in the township to participate in such purchase contracts to file with the township secretary a request for authorization and to agree to be bound by such terms and conditions as the township may prescribe and to be responsible for payment directly to the vendor under each purchase contract; requires the township to prescribe that all prices by F.O.B. destination.

53 P.S. 55703 and 56804.1

Act 1977-80 Boroughs

Act 1977-81 Townships - Second Class

Act 80 adds Section 1404.1 to the Borough Code, 1965 P.L. 1656, No. 581, and Act 81 adds Section 801.1 to the Second Class Township Code, 1947 P.L. 1481, No. 567.

Empower the borough council or board of township supervisors to permit any paid or volunteer fire company, rescue company or ambulance company in the borough or township to participate in purchase contracts for petroleum products entered into by the borough or township; require any such company desiring to participate in such purchase contracts to file with the municipal secretary a request for authorization and to agree to be bound by such terms

and conditions as the township may prescribe and to be responsible for payment directly to the vendor under each purchase contract; require the borough or township to prescribe that all prices be F.O.B. destination.

> Act 80: 53 P.S. 46404.1 Act 81: 53 P.S. 65803.1



III. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, FACILITIES PROGRAMS, REGULATIONS

Act 1977-36 Surface Mining

Amends Sections 3 and 4.2 of the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, 1945 P.L. 1198, No. 418.

Requires any surface mining operator who affects a public or private water supply by contamination or dimunition to restore or replace the affected supply with an alternate source of water adequate in quantity and quality for the purposes served by the supply; authorizes the Secretary of Environmental Resources to issue any necessary compliance orders to an operator who fails to comply with the provisions; authorizes any operator aggrieved by the Secretary's order to appeal to the Envrionmental Hearing Board within 30 days of receipt of the order; would authorize the Secretary, upon a finding that immediate replacement of an affected water supply for potable or domestic needs is required to protect health and safety and that the operator has appealed or failed to comply with the Secretary's order, to restore or replace the affected water supply with an alternative source of water utilizing moneys from the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Fund; would require the Secretary to recover the costs of restoration or replacement, including costs incurred for design and construction of facilities, from the responsible operator or operators and to deposit any such costs recovered in the fund.

Approved: 7/25/77 Effective: 7/25/77

52 P.S. 1396.3 and 1396.4b

Act 1977-41 Counties

Amends Sections 2, 3, 4(a), 8(a), 8.1(c), 9, 14, 14.1, 15(a) and (b), 18(a), 22(a), 23(a), (b) and (c), 24, 25, 26, 27(a), 28(a)(4), 31, 32 and 38 of the Juvenile Act, 1972 P.L. 1464, No. 333.

Provides extensive changes to the act; further defines child, delinquent act and delinquent child; changes references from deprived child to dependent child and

further defines dependent child; reclassifies as dependent. rather than delinquent, a child who has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his parents, guardian or other custodian and who is ungovernable and found to be in need of care, treatment or supervision and requires counties to develop programs for such children; further provides for informal adjustments and consent decrees; prohibits, after December 31, 1979, the detention of a child in any jail and the detention of a child in a facility with adults and establishes standards for and restrictions on the detention of children in such facilities in the interim before December 31, 1979; authorizes the detention of a child alleged to be dependent in the same shelter care facility with alleged delinquent children; requires the Department of Public Welfare to develop or assist in the development in each county approved programs for the provisions of shelter care for children referred to or under the jurisdiction of the court; requires each county, acting alone or in conjunction with other counties, by December 31, 1978, to submit to the Department a plan for the removal of children from adult facilities; requires the Department, if no acceptable plan is submitted within the allocated period, to determine the detention needs of individual counties and to provide the detention services for the counties, including the construction of regional detention facilities; requires the Department, after exhausting all other available funds, including Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Funds and any other federal or state funds available for such purpose, to charge the cost of establishing the necessary regional detention facilities to the counties that will utilize the services to be paid by the counties within 15 months after receipt of notice of the amount due; limits the charges against any county to \$50,000 and entitles the Commonwealth to an additional amount for providing the facilities equivalent to seven per cent of the costs imposed on the county; authorizes the Department, in cases where the operation of an approved detention facility by a single county would not be practicable, to provide directly or by contract with a single county for the operation of regional detention facilities serving the needs of two or more counties and to make arrangements with counties participating in the use of the facilities for the equitable sharing in the costs of constructing and operating the facilities; requires the Department of General Services to make available any vacant state building which the Department of Public Welfare certifies as appropriate for renovation as a regional detention facility; prohibits counties from being required to pay more than ten per cent of the cost of operating new shelter care programs necessary to implement the required reclassification of children as dependent rather than

delinquent, provided that the county has applied for existing federal funds to implement the provisions, has not been deemed ineligible for the federal funds and the programs are approved as necessary by the Department of Public Welfare; authorizes additional orders of disposition in the case of delinquent children; further provides for release from detention or shelter care, for summons to appear before the court, for hearing and findings, for transfers and for length of commitment; restricts disclosure of law enforcement records and files concerning a child; appropriates \$1,500,000 to the Department of Public Welfare to implement the provisions relating to regional detention facilities and to provide grants to counties for the same purpose.

11 P.S. 50-101 et. seq.

Act 1977-57 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Authorities, School Districts

Reenacts and amends the Act authorizing the Governor to provide for disaster and emergency relief, 1961 P.L. 515, No. 265, amended 1969 P.L. 228, No. 92.

Increases from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 the amount which may be transferred by the Governor for disaster and emergency purposes in any one year; authorizes officials of any affected political subdivision, when the Governor proclaims that conditions of extreme emergency exist throughout the state or in one or more political subdivisions due to a natural disaster, including floods, heavy snows or prolonged periods of subfreezing weather, to clear any roadways necessary for the safety and welfare of residents, even though the roadways are not officially the responsibility of the political subdivision; authorizes reimbursement of the political subdivisions for the cost of clearing the roadways; authorizes a political subdivision or municipal authority owning or operating a water system damaged, destroyed or made inoperable as a direct result of conditions of extreme emergency as proclaimed by the Governor, to lease or hire personnel and equipment needed to restore the water system; authorizes reimbursement of the political subdivision or municipal authority for the cost of restoring the water system; empowers the Governor, following a proclamation of extreme emergency, to transfer any unused funds which may have been appropriated for the ordinary expenses of government in the General Fund, to the state agencies designated to administer the programs for payment of reimbursements for clearing roadways or restoring water systems; limits such transfers to a total of \$1,000,000

in any one year except by action of the General Assembly; prohibits reimbursements to the extent that the Commonwealth, a political subdivision or a municipal authority may be eligible for federal assistance; authorizes the Governor to use any civil defense unit and the Pennsylvania National Guard to provide assistance during a natural disaster, condition of extreme emergency or civil disorder; provides for the payment of all moneys received from the federal government for disaster assistance or relief into the General Fund and for the appropriation of such moneys to the departments, boards, commissions or agencies designated by the Governor.

Approved: 8/18/77 Effective: 8/18/77 and retroactive

to 7/1/77

71 P.S. 1689.101 to 1689.107

Act 1977-69 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties

Amends Sections 3353(e), 3354(e) and 6301 of the Vehicle Code (Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes), 1976 P.L. 162, No. 81.

Establishes a maximum fine of \$15 for parking violations under the Code; provides for prosecutions for all parking violations, when the same conduct is proscribed under the Vehicle Code and a local ordinance, to be brought under the local ordinance; authorizes local ordinances relating to parking to allow the payment of penalties in lieu of fines and costs under prescribed conditions.

75 Pa. C.S.A. 3353(e), 3354(e) and 6301

IV. OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL

a. Appointment and Election

Act 1977-13 Counties - Second Class

Adds Section 1249 to the Second Class County Code, 1953 P.L. 723, No. 230.

Authorizes the coroner to appoint a solicitor to advise the coroner on all legal matters and to conduct any litigation in connection with the coroner's office, when requested to do so; provides for the salary of the solicitor to be determined by the salary board and paid out of the fees received and paid into the office of the coroner; requires that all costs and expense incurred by the coroner in connection with litigation or claims relating to his office be paid by the county out of fees received by the coroner's office.

16 P.S. 4249

Act 1977-39 Townships - Second Class

Amends the following sections of the Second Class Township Code, 1947 P.L. 1481, No. 567:

Section 402(B), amended 1975 P.L. 134, No. 67; Section 410, amended 1975 P.L. 73, No. 43.

Authorizes the election of two additional supervisors, if approved by referendum, in any township regardless of population.

53 P.S. 65402(B) and 65410

b. Salaries, Compensation and Benefits

Act 1977-22

Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Authorities, School Districts, Institution Districts

Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law, 1936 2nd Sp. Sess., 1937 P.L. 2897, No. 1, as amended.

Makes extensive changes to the act including the raising of the employers tax base from \$4,200 to \$6,000 per employe, per year and the extension of coverage to employes of political subdivisions and their instrumentalities and to domestic workers and agricultural workers; provides categories of excluded political subdivision employes; authorizes a political subdivision to make regular contributions to the Unemployment Compensation Fund under the employer experience provisions of the act or to elect to make reimbursement payments in lieu of contributions equal to the amount of regular benefits and one-half of the extended benefits paid (after December 31, 1978, the full amount of the extended benefits paid) that is attributable to service in the employ of the political subdivision or instrumentality; includes an automatic repealer of the provisions relating to political subdivisions and their employes should the federal statute relating to the inclusion of employes of political subdivisions within the states' unemployment compensation laws as a requirement for receiving federal unemployment compensation funds or loans be declared unconstitutional.

Approved: 7/6/77 Effective: 1/1/78, with several exceptions

43 P.S. 751 et. seq.

Act 1977-30

Wage Payment and Collection

Amends the following sections of the Wage Payment and Collection Law, 1961 P.L. 637, No. 329:

Section 2 (repealed);
Section 2.1 (added);
Section 3, amended 1972 P.L. 855, No. 192;
Sections 4, 5(a) and 8;
Section 9 (repealed);
Section 9.1 (added);
Section 10, amended 1972 P.L. 855, No. 192;
Section 11 (repealed);
Section 11.1 (added).

Provides for the payment and collection of fringe benefits and wage supplements; requires employers to notify their employes of the amount of fringe benefits and wage supplements due to their employes; permits persons separated from their employment to have their final wage payments mailed to them; reaffirms the right of private individuals to institute criminal prosecutions under the act and permits such prosecutions to be instituted by labor organizations and by persons to whom any type of wages is due; permits the assignment of claims for unpaid wages to the Secretary of Labor and Industry and imposes on the Secretary the duty to prosecute such assigned claims; exempts the Secretary from payment of filing fees and posting of bonds; provides for personal civil and criminal liability for an agent or officer of any employer; provides for an increase in liquidated damages; provides for criminal penalties.

Approved: 7/14/77 Effective: 7/14/77

43 P.S. 260.2 (rep.), 260.2(a) (added), 260.3, 260.4, 260.5(a), 260.8, 260.9 (rep.), 260.9(a) (added), 260.10, 260.11 (rep.), 260.11(a) (added)

Act 1977-72 Townships - First Class

Amends Section 703 of the First Class Township Code, 1949 P.L. 1955, No. 569, amended 1973 P.L. 326, No. 106.

Removes the requirement that commissioners' salaries be paid as full compensation for the duties imposed under the Code. (NOTE: Act 1977-72 also provides for participation by volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance companies in township purchase contracts for petroleum products, see summary on page 14.)

53 P.S. 55703

Act 1977-107 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, Authorities, School Districts

Amends Section 1001 of the Unemployment Compensation Law, 1936 2nd Sp. Sess., 1237 P.L. 2897, No. 1, added 1971 P.L. 450, No. 108, and adds Section 1201(c) to the act.

Defines authorities in provisions relating to state employes to mean authorities instituted as separate governmental entities at the state government level, the governing bodies of which are Commonwealth officials or their appointees; requires that an authority instituted by a borough, city, county, school district, town or township, or by two or more such political subdivisions, as a separate governmental entity at the local government level be considered, for purposes of unemployment compensation, a separate political subdivision.

Approved: 12/22/77 Effective: 1/1/78

43 P.S. 891 and 911(c)

c. Suspension and Termination

Act 1977-7 Boroughs

Amends Section 1124 of the Borough Code, 1965 P.L. 1656, No. 581.

Prohibits council from reinstating a policeman suspended by the mayor earlier than ten working days from the date fixed by the mayor for the suspension to commence.

53 P.S. 46124

Act 1977-83 Volunteer Firemen

A new Act.

Prohibits any employer from terminating an employe who is a volunteer fireman and who in the line of duty has responded to a call prior to the time he was due to report for work resulting in a loss of time from his employment; authorizes the charging of any such time lost from employment to the employe's regular pay; requires the employe to supply his employer with a statement from the chief of his volunteer fire company stating that he responded to a call and the time of the call; requires an employer who wilfully violates the provisions to reinstate the employe to his former position and to pay the employe all lost wages and benefits for the period between the termination and reinstatement; requires that any action to enforce the provisions of the act be commenced within two years of the date of violation.

43 P.S. 1201 to 1205

V. PUBLIC UTILITIES

Act 1977-15 Public Utilities

Adds Section 904-A to the Administrative Code of 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175.

Empowers the Public Utility Commission to levy limited assessments against public utilities for funding the Office of the Consumer Advocate.

71 P.S. 309-4.1

Act 1977-85 Public Utilities

Amends Section 313(a) of the Public Utility Law, 1937 P.L. 1053, No. 286, repealed in part 1971 P.L. 118, No. 6.

Increases from two years to four years the period of time prior to the date of the filing of a complaint for which the Public Utility Commission may order a public utility to refund excess payments by patrons, in cases where the commission determines that any rate received by the public utility was unjust or unreasonable, violated any order or regulation of the commission or was in excess of the applicable rate of the public utility.

66 P.S. 1153(a)

Act 1977-100 Public Utilities

Amends Section 1101 of the Tax Reform Code of 1971 P.L. 6, No. 2, amended 1971 P.L. 362, No. 93.

Extends the utilities gross receipts tax to all electricity produced in the Commonwealth; provides for reporting.

Approved: 12/21/77 Effective: 12/21/77 and

applicable to gross receipts for calendar year 1977 and

each year thereafter



VI. STATE GOVERNMENT

Act 1977-19 Pennsylvania Transportation Assistance Authority

Amends Sections 3 and 9(d) of the Pennsylvania Transportation Assistance Authority Act of 1967, 1968 P.L. 27, No. 7.

Authorizes the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the minority leaders of the Senate and House to designate any member of the Senate or House to act in their stead as members of the authority; provides for the board of the authority to use the staff of the Department of Transportation rather than the staff of the General State Authority.

66 P.S. 1903 and 1909(d)

Act 1977-20 Child Custody

A new Act, known as the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act.

Provides for the custody of children in order to assure that litigation concerning the custody of a child takes place ordinarily in the state with which the child and his family have the closest connection and that the courts of Pennsylvania decline the jurisdiction when the child and his family have a closer connection with another state.

11 P.S. 2301 to 2325

Act 1977-24 Pennsylvania Transportation Assistance Authority

Amends Section 3 of the Pennsylvania Transportation Assistance Authority Act of 1967, 1968 P.L. 27, No. 7.

Authorizes members of the authority who are members of the General Assembly to appoint another member of the same House to act in their stead.

66 P.S. 1903

Act 1977-28 Junkyards

Amends the Title and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Act restricting the establishment and maintenance of junkyards along highways, 1966 3rd. Sp. Sess. P.L. 91, No. 4.

Includes automotive dismantlers and recyclers within provisions relating to junkyards; increases the annual license fee from \$50 to \$100; prohibits any junk or any other motor vehicles incapable of meeting state inspection requirements from being placed between the highway and the required screening; increases the maximum fine for violating the provisions of the act.

36 P.S. 2719.1, 2719.2, 2719.3, 2719.4, 2719.6, 2719.7, 2719.9, 2719.10, 2719.11, 2719.12 and 2719.13

Act 1977-35 Mobile Homes

A new Act, known as the Mobile Home Titling Act.

Would require every owner of a mobile home in Pennsylvania for which no certificate of title or ownership has been issued by the Department of Transportation or any public or private agency to make application to the Department for a certificate of title or ownership; would prohibit the sale or transfer of ownership of a mobile home without the proper transfer of the certificate of title; would provide for application for an issuance of a certificate of title or ownership and would provide for information to be contained on a certificate; would provide for administration of the act by the Department of Transportation and would authorize the Department to adopt rules and regulations and to establish a schedule of fees related to the cost incurred in the administration and enforcement of the act; would authorize the Department to cancel a certificate of title or ownership for a mobile home which is affixed to real property and would provide for interest in ownership of the mobile home, together with all liens and encumbrances, to be transferred to the real property to which the mobilehome has become affixed.

Approved: 7/25/77 Effective: 9/23/77

68 P.S. 1001 to 1011

Act 1977-59 School Districts

Amends the Public School Code of 1949, P.L. 30, No. 14, as amended.

Changes the formulae for Commonwealth reimbursements to school districts and intermediate units and provides for the budgeting and expenditure of increased subsidies by school districts; further provides for penalties for defacing, injuring or destroying school property.

> 24 P.S. 7-777, 9-967 (rep.), 9-967.1 (added), 9-969 (rep.), 9-969.1 (added), 9-972.1(d), 9-973(d), 13-1372(3), 25-2501, 25-2502, 25-2502.3

Act 1977-68 Cities, Boroughs, Towns, Townships, Counties, School Districts

Amends Section 5903 of the Crimes Code (Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes), 1972 P.L. 1482, No. 334.

Further defines the offense of obscenity, redefines "obscene" and further provides for injunctions; provides an exemption for any recognized historical society or museum accorded charitable status by the federal government, any county, city, borough, township or town library, any public library, any library of any school, college or university or any archive or library under the supervision and control of the Commonwealth or a political subdivision.

Became law without Effective: 1/4/78

the Governor's

signature: 11/5/77 18 Pa. C.S.A. 5903

Act 1977-96 Senior Citizens Property Tax or Rent Rebates

Amends Section 5 of the Senior Citizens Property Tax or Rent Rebate Act, 1971 P.L. 104, No. 3, reenacted and amended 1975 P.L. 7, No. 4.

Authorizes the acceptance of claims filed after the June 30 deadline at the discretion of the Secretary of Revenue for cause shown. Approved: 12/16/77

Effective: 12/16/77 and applicable retroactively to claims filed for rebate of taxes or rent due and payable during calendar year 1976 only

72 P.S. 4751-5

Act 1977-97

Mortgages

Amends Section 401 of the Loan Interest and Protection Law, 1974 P.L. 13, No. 6.

Replaces the disclosure requirements in the act with the requirement that a residential mortgage lender provide to the residential mortgage debtor disclosures required by Title I of the federal Truth in Lending Act (Public Law 90-321, 82 Stat. 146) and the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-533, 88 Stat. 1724) and by regulations adopted under the two federal acts.

41 P.S. 401

Joint Resolution 1977-2 Emergency Constitutional Amendment - Disaster Assistance

Amends Article VIII, Section 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Empowers the General Assembly, subsequent to a Presidential declaration of emergency or major disaster in any part of the Commonwealth, by a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each House, to make appropriations limited to moneys required for federal emergency or major disaster relief; makes the provisions applicable retroactively to any Presidential declaration of emergency or major disaster in 1976 or 1977.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth: 8/2/77 Approved by statewide referendum: 11/8/77

VII. PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Joint Resolution 1977-3

Judiciary

Proposed amendment to Article XI, Section 13(b) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing for a person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of justice, judge or justice of the peace to serve for a term ending on the first Monday of January following the next municipal election more than ten months after the vacancy occurs or for the remainder of the unexpired term, whichever is less.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth: 10/18/77

Prior passage: 1976

Will be submitted to electors in a statewide referendum: 5/16/78

Joint Resolution 1977-4

State Government

Proposed amendment to Article IV, Sections 4.1, 5, 6, 8 and 17 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing for the election of the Attorney General and for his qualifications.

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth: 11/21/77

Prior passage: 1976

Will be submitted to the electors in a statewide referendum: 5/16/78



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